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**WESTMINSTER MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORN**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Andre M. Davis sentenced Scott Wade Markle, age 44, of Westminster, Maryland to one year and one day in prison followed by 2 years of supervised release for possession of visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court as part of his plea agreement, on March 8, 2002 Westminster police officers were called to the offices of an advertising business, known as "Mind over Marketing," in Westminster and shown a laptop computer on Markle's desk. Visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct were in plain view on the display screen of the laptop. Shortly thereafter, Markle returned to the business. Markle admitted that he was responsible for placing the images on the laptop. A subsequent search of the laptop by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents revealed numerous depictions of minors engaged in sexual acts. These images were downloaded by Markle from the Internet using his computer.

United States Attorney Rosenstein thanked the Westminster Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their work, and Assistant United States Attorney Andrew G.W. Norman who prosecuted the case.